2: Caroe S-4 (no date) 1953 RL1 Soviet Central Asia RL1

496 not prevent large-scale construction in Turkistan in certain spheres. Delays over the Mointy–Chu line must be attributed to other causes. Whatever the actual cause in any given case, it is possible to affirm with certainty first that it has become a habit for engineers and announcers alike to make a point of confusing blueprints with actual construction, and secondly that Soviet railway construction in Turkistan up to the present time has not added very materially to the network which existed twenty years ago.

Shortcomings and delays of this kind are worth mentioning, for the picture must be seen in light and shade. But the general impression would be as true, namely, that the five republics have now become, for their population if not for their size, a highly industrialized area. Statistics, if nothing else, show something like one in three of the population as
316 living in towns and centres. Karaganda, the centre of the coal-
135 field in Kazakistan, has grown from nothing to 200,000. Like Magnitogorsk in earlier days, it is in fact a concentration camp of helot labour, producing over sixteen million tons of coal a year and qualifying as the third most productive coal-field in the Union, the next after the Don and Kuznetz basins. There are large coal deposits in the Angren Valley close to Tashkent, well sited to serve the industries of the capital and near the nodal point of the railway network. There is also
315 coal in the Tajik foothills. Ishimbay, the heart of the Second Baku in the Urals, already mentioned, is not far outside the five republics and within Bashkiria, while in the republics are three most important groups of oil-wells. The first is in the Emba area (in Kazakistan north-east of the Caspian), with the fields round Guryev and pipe-line to Orsk, the third most productive field in the Union. Next is the Nebit Dagh field close to Krasnovodsk, followed by various smaller wells in the Farghana Valley at Kim-Shorsu, at Yarkurgan and Chimion and also near Andijan. Others find mention in enthusiastic articles in press and encyclopedia alike. Some 1950 targets of production — all realized — are given in the selective table appended to this chapter. [2]

[2] [See each file, p 213 -- Analyst]